

**PANEL DYFARNU CYMRU
ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES**

NOTICE OF DECISION

TRIBUNAL REFERENCE NUMBER: APW/004/2023-024/CT

RESPONDENT: Councillor Bernie Attridge

RELEVANT AUTHORITIES: Flintshire County Council
Connah's Quay Town Council

1. A Case Tribunal convened by the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales has considered a reference in respect of the above Respondent.
2. In a letter dated 11 December 2023 with an enclosed Report, the Adjudication Panel for Wales received a referral from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in relation to allegations made against Councillor Attridge.
3. The allegations were that he had breached the Authorities' Code of Conduct by attempting to develop a relationship with someone who, whilst not in his ward, had wanted help with a family member's housing problem. Once he had indicated that he was attempting to help, his messages to the individual became sexually explicit as he hoped for reciprocation. When he did not get the help and cooperation that he had hoped for from Housing Officers, he became rude and threatening and subsequently adopted a similar approach to the Monitoring Officer when the issues came to light.
3. A Case Tribunal was convened on 26 April 2024 to consider the case on the basis of written submissions.
4. The Tribunal unanimously decided that Councillor Attridge had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct as alleged in paragraph 3 above.
4. The Case Tribunal unanimously decided that it was therefore appropriate to **suspend** Councillor Attridge from acting as a member of the authorities for a period of **4 months**.
5. The Authorities and its Standards Committee is notified accordingly.
6. The Respondent has the right to seek the leave of the High Court to appeal the above decision.
7. The Case Tribunal made no recommendations to the Authorities.



Signed..... Date...26 April 2024.....

Mr J Livesey
Chairperson of the Case Tribunal

Mr HE Jones JP
Panel Member

Mrs S McRobie
Panel Member